

Immunization

Immunizations can be a person's best line of defense against death and disability from infectious diseases. Vaccinations not only protect individuals from infection, they also help control the spread of diseases within communities. Influenza and pneumonia are two potentially fatal, but preventable, diseases. Because influenza and pneumonia are relatively common, many people forget that they can be killers. The BRFSS included questions asking respondents if they had been immunized against pneumonia and influenza. The trend data for both vaccines is encouraging, as it indicates that more South Carolinians are getting vaccinated against both pneumonia and influenza.

Had Flu Shot in the Past 12 Months

The number of people receiving flu vaccinations annually has more than doubled from about 15 percent in 1995, to 34 percent in 2000. People over the age of 65 (the target population of highest interest) who have been immunized against the flu are also becoming much more common. In 1995, approximately 50 percent of South Carolinians aged 65 or older received flu shots compared to about 70 percent in 2000.

In 2000, 37.5 percent of white females reported that they had gotten flu shots, compared to about 35 percent of white males. Overall, about 36 percent of whites received flu vaccinations in 2000. According to BRFSS data, about 28 percent of black males and females were immunized against the flu. Black females, at 27.2 percent, showed a slightly lower prevalence of getting the shot than did black males, whose prevalence was about 29 percent.

Ever Had Pneumonia Vaccination

Since 1993, the number of people who receive annual pneumonia vaccinations has risen steadily, especially in people over the age of 65. In 1993, only 20 percent of people over the age of 65 received pneumonia vaccinations. By 2000, roughly 60 percent of people aged 65 or older had been immunized against pneumonia. The BRFSS indicates that 20.5 percent of the overall population was immunized against pneumonia in 2000, compared to about 11 percent in 1993.

BRFSS data shows that approximately 22 percent of white males and females said that they had received pneumonia vaccinations in 2000. Just over 20 percent of black males reported getting the shot, while only 17 percent of black females claimed to have been vaccinated against pneumonia.

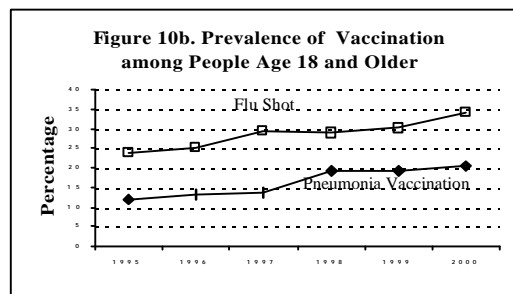
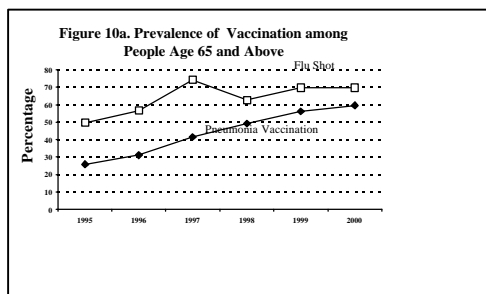


Table 10. Prevalence of receiving Immunizations, 2000

	Flu shot			Pneumonia Vaccination		
	%	95% CI		%	95% CI	
Overall	34.0	32.0	35.9	20.5	18.9	22.0
Sex						
Male	33.5	30.5	36.4	21.0	18.5	23.6
Female	34.4	32.1	36.8	20.0	18.0	22.0
Race						
White	36.2	34.1	38.4	21.5	19.6	23.3
Black	28.0	24.1	31.9	18.4	14.9	21.9
Race and Sex						
White Male	34.9	31.5	38.2	21.6	18.7	24.5
White Female	37.5	34.8	40.3	21.4	19.0	23.8
Black Male	29.1	22.4	35.8	20.2	14.1	26.4
Black Female	27.2	22.5	31.8	17.0	13.1	21.0
Age						
18-24	28.7	22.9	34.5	14.0	9.2	18.8
25-34	19.2	15.6	22.8	9.2	6.4	12.0
35-44	19.8	16.6	23.0	9.0	6.5	11.4
45-54	31.5	27.5	35.6	12.0	9.0	14.9
55-64	42.9	37.7	48.1	23.5	19.0	28.0
65 +	69.7	65.2	74.2	59.7	54.8	64.5
Education						
<High School	38.0	32.6	43.4	28.0	23.1	32.9
HS graduate	29.7	26.5	32.9	20.4	17.6	23.3
Some College	34.8	31.0	38.6	19.1	16.0	22.1
College graduate	36.5	33.0	39.9	17.8	14.9	20.7
House Hold Income						
<\$25,000	32.9	29.3	36.5	24.5	21.2	27.8
\$25,000-\$49,999	31.0	27.9	34.1	19.4	16.7	22.2
\$50,000-\$74,999	30.5	25.6	35.4	15.1	11.2	19.0
\$75,000+	38.0	32.6	43.3	12.5	8.8	16.2
Employment						
Employed	28.0	25.8	30.2	12.6	10.9	14.3
Unemployed	15.0	7.3	22.8	15.6	6.5	24.7
Others	51.7	47.9	55.5	39.6	35.9	43.3
Unable to work	37.5	29.2	45.8	27.9	20.0	35.7